

STRIDENT (strīd'nt), adj. Conspicuously and offensively loud; being sharply insistent on being heard

LXXIII- No. 7

Amity Regional High School

Woodbridge, CT 06525

April 1, 2018

Sesame Street: Great New Addition to Spartan Seminar

by Sana Pashankar '19

As you may have all noticed, Spartan Seminar has taken a creative new approach to teaching high school students complex rules and ideas behind a well-functioning and inclusive Amity community: watching Sesame Street!

The lessons of these wise and experienced furry teachers give students incredible insight into never-before learned ideas about how we can further advance our society in ways we may have never considered. Some may even wonder, why were we never taught these things before?

It's almost like we should have watched these essentially important lessons 15 years ago while we were being potty-trained and spitting up peas...

A few Spartan Seminars ago, students around the school were exposed to these eye-opening videos. The high falsetto voices of the Sesame Street characters are nothing that would ever incredibly irk the ears of a slightly hungry, slightly tired Amity student body; oh no, music to our ears actually.

The dancing of these vibrant

and energetic characters did not induce a raging migraine upon the students; nope, it was a soothing and tranquil experience. Students watched in awe and fascination; not a single phone was looked at, not a single headphone was in.

One student stated, "It really was a dignified experience. I mean I never thought that the Spartan Seminar committee or the administrators would ever think we were intelligent enough to comprehend that."

Other students agreed. They believed it a real treat to not only experience the videos, but also know that administrators felt that this material was the most fitting for our age group.

The much-anticipated excitement of Seminar every week was only enhanced by experiencing the cinematic sensation of Sesame Street. Speaking for all students, it would be beneficial to watch children's television in every Spartan Seminar.

Next time, maybe we should even throw some Dora in there, except the committee should check if 18-year-old seniors are intelligent enough to handle 25 minutes of Dora's thought-provoking questions.



Elmo says "Hi" to Amity!

Spartan Seminar to Occur EVERY DAY to Replace Academic Classes

by Kate Yuan '19

After months of pleas and several stages of activism by Amity students, the executive decision has been made by the administration to implement Spartan Seminar EVERY DAY, with only activities relating to the One Book, One Amity novel of the past summer, "Every Day."

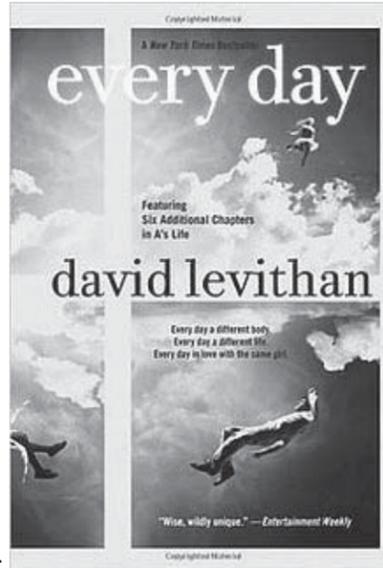
Last year, participation in Spartan Seminar activities aimed at getting students to make connections with "The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind" was like pulling teeth, but students this year have been racing to get into Spartan Seminar; practically no students go to the cafeteria to buy warm chocolate chip muffins—none at all.

This sudden lackluster traffic through the cafeteria has forced tremendous budget cuts for Chartwells which had been running on the profits of muffins alone, which is an entire other issue in itself as they have been forced to run on seven cents a day.

It has even been observed that classroom doors are slammed shut as soon as the bell rings, trapping those unfortunate souls who dawdle

on their way to their classrooms outside, as the extremely passionate do not want any distractions from the twenty-five precious minutes of community building.

Junior Helpme Please reported, "Once, I said that I wasn't a big fan of the book, and when I got up to my car



after braving the treacherous hike that is the path to junior parking, it was completely covered in toilet paper and eggs."

At exactly 3:24 am (symbolistic of the 324 pages in the book) on April 1st, sev-

eral hundred students gathered in the driveway in front of the pond. Observers commented that the students were chanting "Justice for A! More Spartan Seminar!"

Demonstrators remained at the school and blockaded the entrance of the driveway, preventing faculty and staff from entering. After hours of negotiation, an agreement was met, and it is evident to any eye that the students came out on top. The students finally unblocked the entrance in exchange for replacing all classes and lunch with Spartan Seminar, dedicated solely for the discussion and activities surrounding Every Day.

Senior Getme Out commented, "I think this is exactly the kind of communication the administration meant when they deemed March with the core value of communication. I am happy we could make it happen!"

For those of you who are still confused, all you need to know if that backpacks will no longer be necessary, as the only thing you need to succeed from this point on is your copy of Every Day and your excitement as we unveil this new era of education!

Trident Survey: Amity Is Running Late

by Ben Sauberman '18

Amity's most emergent issue is apparent daily during first period. This year's junior class has been purchasing parking passes at a record-breaking rate, filling the lot to capacity. As a result, by 7:20, a massive line of bumper to bumper traffic snaking from the end of Rice Rd. and North Pease through the back gates of school.

On any given day, it can take up to an hour to park, walk, and get to class. More pressing than the extensive wait, however, is the colossal quantity of tardy pupils.

With the typical student arriving about 25 minutes into class, some teachers have adopted unorthodox compensation strategies. An

Amity alum, physics whiz Vincent Lazzaro understands the difficulty of arriving to Amity on time. He started showing one episode of Big Bang Theory to start off his first period.

Lazzaro said, "There are only like eight kids to start class anyway, and I feel like its a show about science stuff so they're at least learning."

In his second year as a member of the Amity English Department, Christian Allard has decided to join his students in arriving late to his first period.

Allard commented, "Since the late issue has really gotten out of hand, I had a talk with my students about it."

He continued, "We decided it was too hard for everyone to arrive on time." He now

starts class half an hour after the bell rings, at 8:03. However, he is quick to administer a tardy to any student who arrives later without a valid excuse.

After a Trident survey found that just 45% of upperclassmen arrive on time, the Board of Education tasked Amity with finding a solution. Assistant Principal Frank Baretta tapped communications expert Jeremy Iverson to create a radio-based solution.

Hoping that students stuck in Amity traffic would tune in to a first period radio station to avoid a tardy, Baretta pushed his coworkers to fund the project. Iverson recently reported that the newly installed fuel cell was the source of intense radio wave interference and the endeavor wouldn't pan out.

Assistant Principal Jason Tracy immediately got to work negotiating a deal with Chartwells. In an effort to incentivize hungry, sleep deprived students, Chartwells agreed to provide free bagels and coffee every Friday to students who had been punctual all week. Tracy assembled a focus group to take a temperature of the idea. Repulsed by the notion of being fed more Chartwells products, participants unified to find a better food service instead.

Owen Cooper '18 said, "I appreciate Dr. Tracy's sentiment, but Chartwells' food hurts my tummy."

Inspired by a recent visit to the airport upon her return from the Seoul Olympics, Principal Anna Mahon suggested the installation of a

moving sidewalk from the end of junior parking down to the back exit. Ever the competitor, when informed that this addition would make Amity the owner of the longest moving sidewalk at a school in Connecticut, Mahon was determined to own that record. Although she offered no solution of her own, Assistant Principal Monica Kreuzer was adamant that the conveyor system be named "Kreuz Control."

As third marking period ends, the administration is sure to be cracking down on Amity's tardy-problem. Mahon estimated that the moving sidewalk would take at least two months construct. If the belt is installed by the end of school, Mahon's idea may save hundreds of students from missing their finals.

Dr. Dumais Announces Plan to Communicate with Students Using Memes

By Howard Ding '18

On March 25, Amity Schools Superintendent Dr. Charles Dumais announced that he was starting a Meme Communications Accreditation at Westhill High School.

With meme culture being increasingly spicier by the day, Dr. Dumais has actively embraced it to communicate more

effectively with students, especially given that Amity's monthly theme for March was "communication."

After an exchange on Twitter with junior Peter Spodnick, Dumais noted that he may use the meme for future school cancellation notifications, which he did just a week later.

Given the newness of this educational approach, Dr. Dumais is seeking an accreditation for Meme Communications to make sure Amity is at the forefront of

student-centered learning, where learning centers around the needs of each student. With memes being so popular nowadays, it's easy to agree with the new approach.

Catching onto this, senior Teddy Criscuolo contacted Dumais to seek an interview regarding his new use of memes "to interact with the Amity community," which will be hitting the Strident in a future issue, so be sure to stay tuned!



Dr. Charles Dumais @charlesdumais

Follow

Replying to @tedward04

Sure, Teddy. Stop by and Mrs. Welton will help find a good time to meet and discuss my use of memes.

4:24 AM - 1 Apr 2018



Dr. Charles Dumais @charlesdumais · Mar 25

Getting started on a Meme Communications Accreditation at Westhill High School!



Dr. Charles Dumais @charlesdumais · Mar 13

Good Morning, Amity Regional Schools will be closed on Tuesday, March 13, 2018, due to pending weather conditions. Offices are open. Be safe today. #ARS



Peter Spodnick @spodnick_peter · Mar 6

Replying to @charlesdumais



1 14 49



Dr. Charles Dumais @charlesdumais · Mar 5

Very nice, Peter! Maybe I'll use this for future notifications!

1 4



Peter Spodnick @spodnick_peter · Mar 6

You're the man!

1 5

Amity Adds More Time Restrictions to Instate Totalitarian Regime

By Kevin Zhao '18

In light of the new time restriction regarding when students can enter the school (not before 7 a.m.), it has become evidently clear that Amity Regional High School has decided to prevent students from being dropped off by their parents in the morning, forcing them to stay overnight in order to catch meetings.

In addition to not allowing students in the building before 7 a.m., Amity also has instated rules preventing parents from dropping their children off after 7 a.m. in the front parking lot and banning juniors and seniors from walking outside the school after 2:18 p.m. (to ensure there are no crashes).

Administration has also added a mandatory Spartan Seminar activity at 3:30 a.m. every morning to help create good morale within its student population.

During these early morning Spartan Seminars, a nonstop video of Morgan Freeman stating "School is fun, I love school"

the fun that school really does provide.

Yet more time restrictions are in the works at Amity.

no talking to other students after 7:23 a.m. (to foster independence and personal achievement), as well as no food on Mondays

Charles Dumais was caught on record stating how "these time restrictions are just the beginning to my master plan - first food restrictions, then time restrictions, and before you know it, we've created an army."

Soon, the school will install hidden cameras at every desk, and even add two feet of fake snow to prevent students from leaving.

There are many more time restrictions and rules regarding food and the classroom environment that are in the works.

Lunches will soon be shortened to only six minutes to keep students hungry. That nagging sense of hunger will then be re-directed into "an intense hunger for knowledge!"

These are all just the beginning of the rather tame rules regarding students.

But soon, Amity will have enough control over its students to build a new and more perfect union.



for thirty minutes has been repeated every day to allow Amity students to understand

Such rules include no tying shoe laces after 8 a.m. (they must be perfect to begin with),

(to combat childhood obesity epidemic).

Schools Superintendent Dr.

THE AMITY TRIDENT

LXXIII-No.7

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April 6, 2018

THE ADDAMS FAMILY MUSICAL PREMIERES TONIGHT



The cast of *The Addams Family* prepares for tonight's performance. Photo by Howard Ding '18. See story on pages 4 and 5.

Salsa Night Provides Cultural Experience for Students

by Sophia Wang '20

Immersing students into different cultural experiences has always been a goal at Amity. The Spanish Honor Society's Salsa Night has been run annually with this purpose. This year, the event was held on March 23rd from 7:00 to 9:00 in the cafeteria.

Senior Justine Luo, a member of the society, stated that the group is "dedicated to appreciating

Spanish culture and bringing other people together to have more appreciation and understanding of other cultures."

Sophomore Akanksha Paul '20, who is currently taking Spanish, described the event with enthusiasm.

"My love for Spanish and interest to better understand and become acquainted with hispanic culture inspired my decision to come; this event is a tradition at Amity."

A special dance instructor was invited to teach students how to practice Spanish dances, such as the Merengue, a traditional dance originated from the Dominican Republic. The dance instructor was Amity Alum Alisa Bowens-Mercado, who has taught at Salsa Night for many years. Bowens-Mercado owns a Latin Dance Studio in New Haven called Alisa's House of Salsa.

Sophomore Akanksha Paul '20 had much to say

about the instructor's energy. "The atmosphere was very lively and energetic and the instructor taught us all the basic steps so that we could begin to keep up with the complex routine!"

In addition to dancing, eating, and talking to friends, students were able to participate in a dancing competition. Students were split into a total of four teams. Sophomore Rhea Dey noted, "We played this game and there was this idea of leadership, I

met a lot of new people and it was really fun to dance in front of people, even though it was a bit embarrassing."

The food offered and music played during the event was also a hit for students. Sophomore Rhea Dey commented, "The music was very traditional at first, which was cool, but then we started doing some new pop and Spanish songs that we knew, which was

Continued on page 2

IN THIS
ISSUE



The Addams Family Musical
Centerspread, 4-5



Spring Break
Features, 6



The Addams Family Collage
Arts, 7



Amity Softball
Sports, 8

Salsa Night Provides Cultural Experience for Students (cont.)

Continued from page 2

fun!”

This year, the food was funded from On the Border. Donations included various deserts (cookies, donut holes, and brownies) as well as salsa, guacamole, and tortilla chips to enjoy.

Some students who attended the event for multiple years also had thoughts about this year's Salsa Night. Abigail Wisnewski '20, who also attended as a freshman, emphasized the difference.

“Last year there were some food shortages, but this year there was definitely enough,” Wisnewski said. “It's just a really great experience



Students Enjoying Salsa Night
Photo by Alessandro Rivera '21

and I got to meet some of the language staff at Amity!”

With these improvements and Amity's

passion for Spanish culture, Salsa Night is sure to be a great experience and a long lasting-tradition at Amity.

SAT Postponed Due to Weather

By Sean Lee '20

New England weather is infamous for bringing our community heavy downpour and what seems like endless amounts of snow. The district and school have to change dates of different events, such as school and sports, in response to this weather.

It took its toll on the SAT that was scheduled on March 21st. With an expected 8-12 inches of snow, the SAT was postponed to April 24th.

The cancellation of the SAT testing resulted in a giant wave of mixed emotions and feelings from the junior class at Amity. Some students felt a sigh

of relief while many others' hearts dropped after being notified about the postponement.

Lots of procrastinating and busy students were happy to hear that they would get the opportunity of receiving more time to prepare for what can seem to be a haunting standardized test.

Jacob Feuerstein '19 said, “It was necessary due to the forecast meteorological conditions,” but later added “I wish we didn't have to take it at all.”

Some were disappointed as they felt more than ready to dive in head first into the SAT on that day and the new date would take time out of spring break as students still need to study.

Anthony Tom '19 re-

flected, “I was looking forward to taking it and not having to schedule it myself and take it independently,” also adding “but when it was cancelled I was a little sad because that would mean more time studying, this time over April break which isn't so great.”

Another junior, Jay Moon, expressed that he felt “disappointed. I just wanted to get it over with.”

No matter the circumstance, the students that were supposed to take the SAT will no longer have to worry about cancellation due to weather. Also, there should be plenty of time to study and catch up for the procrastinators that had little time to study.

Good luck to all who are taking the SAT!

Students Continue to Show Solidarity

By Ella Marin '20

On March 24th, more than 700 demonstrations around the nation were held to honor victims of gun violence and demand changes in legislation. Additional demonstrations were held worldwide, hitting every continent except Antarctica.

These protests were sparked by the survivors of the February 14th school shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Not only were students enraged and upset, but they were determined to make a change.

New battle cries emerged, such as “enough is enough”, “thoughts and prayers are not enough”, and “vote them out.” Al-

though the protests were student run, people of all ages came out to march. Parkland survivor Emma Gonzalez and Martin Luther King Jr.'s granddaughter Yolanda King were main speakers at the rally in Washington D.C.

Just ten days prior to the March for our Lives, Amity, along with approximately 2,800 other schools across the country, staged a walkout. Students left their classrooms at 10 am to pay their respects to victims of gun violence. After the walkout, many students were inspired to take their passion even further by attending marches across the nation.

Amity's Evan Hollander '20, marched at the main rally in Washington D.C. “It was a very empowering experience

to be there and see how many people supported the cause,” he said. “The crowds stretched so far that I couldn't even see how far they actually went.”

More than 200,000 people attended the main march in Washington. Additionally, Hollander said, “Knowing that this was a student-led movement made it all the more moving for me. I found the chants of ‘vote them out’ to be indicative of the future of this movement. It showed lawmakers within earshot that thoughts and prayers are not enough.”

Mackenzie Black '20 attended a march in Hartford. She and her friend made signs and noted how they fit right in with the various array of serious to spongebob signs. Black described the chant “vote

Amity Hosts Annual College Fair

By Sydney Reiner '20

Amity hosted its annual College Fair on Monday, March 26th, at 6:30 pm. Over 160 colleges set up in the gym, ready to promote their schools and distribute information.

It was a night full of future college attendees attempting to plan their futures and gain information on the diverse types of colleges and universities.

The colleges set up at tables for the students and families to peruse. Each table displayed information on the specific college or university, as well as an admissions representative, ready to discuss and answer questions about the particular school.

Many students believed it was helpful to get a glimpse and an understanding of the different colleges and types of colleges. This night was especially beneficial to juniors, who would soon be making important decisions about college and their futures.

Becky Beloin '21 said, “I thought it was helpful and let me see all the options that there were and

learn some information about the colleges that I was interested in. It was a little overwhelming because of how many schools there were, but overall it was helpful.”

Faculty also understood the importance of the event, with English teacher Tasia Kimball choosing to spend class time discussing the fair and possible questions to ask the admissions counselors. She also advised her sophomores to attend the event.

While primarily tailored to juniors, the fair also attracted sophomores were beginning the college process early.

Ana Carney '20 said, “It was beneficial to attend as a sophomore because I was able to get a head start on the process. It was really nice to speak directly with the representatives and to ask whatever questions I needed to help narrow down my search. I will know what to expect for next year.”

The College Fair was a successful night that helped Amity students and families begin and continue to investigate the college process.



Carrie Kaufman '18 and Arianna Decker '18 hold signs.
Photo by Nitya Bhattari '18 (See article below.)

them out” to be moving.

She said, “This 21 year old was talking about running for state senate and it was incredibly powerful. It was such a moving thing to be a part of.”

As for the future of this movement, Black said, “It's so awesome to be able to be a part of history. Being at that march made me very confident that change is happening and I'm super excited for the midterm elections to see what happens.”

Danielle Lee '20 participated in the New York City march. When talking about the impact of the march, Lee said, “It doesn't just affect us. The March for Our Lives movement was started by teens, but people of all ages participated. The media often seems to portray the gun

control movement as a youth issue, but I saw it as more of a youth-led movement that brought together a much wider audience.”

Lee, like so many others, also described the powerful energy she felt at the marches. “I remember feeling so helpless after the shooting in my childhood hometown, Las Vegas, but the march made me feel like I can make a difference. The energy among almost 200,000 people in New York City alone was empowering.”

The March for Our Lives was successful as it unified people across the nation to demand change. However, its success will be measured in whether or not new legislation gets passed to control gun usage.

Harassment and Abuse Reporting Needs to Change

by Ryan Anastasio '20

Twenty-seventeen was changed forever by the Me Too Movement.

Hundreds of celebrities across the country were accused of sexual harassment including Matt Lauer, Harvey Weinstein, and Charlie Rose.

The women that reported the harassment were very brave and stood up to people that had a lot of power. The abusers tried to silence them, but American society stood up and accepted their stories.

Sexual harassment and abuse in government happens, but we do not hear about it a lot. Congressman and State Legislators sometimes even use taxpayer money to

pay off accusers and silence them.

In Connecticut, there are very few instances of sexual harassment in state government. The last formal complaint was made over ten years ago. However, it is reasonable to think that most instances of harassment and abuse are not reported.

There needs to be change in places like Connecticut. It is a very long and enduring process to file a complaint. Sometimes the accuser has to come forward publicly and most accusers want their names to remain silent.

There needs to be a restructuring of the reporting process for sexual harassment and abuse in Connecticut and across the country.

In late March, it was

made known that Tony Baker, the former Chief of Staff to Congresswoman Elizabeth Esty, was kept on the payroll for several months after the Congresswoman realized that he had been threatening and abusing people in her office.

Congresswoman Esty reached out to the House Counsel's office who helped her dismiss the employee privately as well as pay him \$5,000 severance as well as a recommendation to work for Sandy Hook Promise.

It is disgraceful what happened in 2016 and it should never happen again. There needs to be a system in place where people in government and all other professions can anonymously report instances of abuse and harassment.

It's the Beginning, Not the End

by Kevin Zhao '18

On March 28th, 2018 at 9:10 p.m., I checked my admission portals for Brown, Columbia, UPenn, and Yale. The dreaded Ivy Day had come, and my fingers trembled - half nervous, half excited - as I clicked on each decision. I was only met with disappointment.

Letter after letter began with the iconic words "Thank you for your interest in _____, but we regret to inform you that..." I never even read the end of those four letters. In just four, short sentences, I had been devastated.

Everything I had worked towards seemingly crumbled before my very eyes. I would not be able to continue in my sister's footsteps, nor would I ever get the praise from my parents for getting into an infamous Ivy League university.

Though in hindsight, that was rather dramatic of me. Throughout my entire college application process, I was met with overwhelming support from my fellow class-

mates, parents, teachers, sister, you name it.

And now that I'm faced with the reality of not attending an Ivy League university - I realize how completely elitist and completely blind I was during this process.

Juniors, sophomores, and freshmen, the name of the school you attend is not what matters. It's the experience that you get and the opportunity you receive to discover what you are truly passionate about.

In the end, college is not a destination you reach, but simply a mechanic's shop that'll make your car run a little smoother. What'll get you to that destination is already in your car, not in the mechanic's shop. So even if you don't get the decisions that you want, realize that college (or even the lack thereof) is simply a means to an end - it's absolutely not the end goal.

And while I'm at it, I might as well address what will likely be a mind-boggling amount of denials you will receive eventually. Don't take it as a signal of your worth. A school

like UPenn could likely fill four to five times its freshman class if it accepted all candidates that were qualified.

Your worth isn't decided by the name of the college you attend. Sure, the process isn't exactly the most fair, but neither are many other situations and obstacles that you will encounter in your life. Deal with it, and move on - there really isn't anything you can do. And in the unlikely scenario you absolutely hate the university you attend, know that you always have an opportunity to transfer. Again, it's really not the end of the world at all.

So with my last parting words as I decide between the few wonderful schools that accepted me, I offer a couple words of encouragement and support. Have faith that you will earn what you have worked so hard for - but in the case that you don't see the decisions you wanted, understand that it's not your fault, and it doesn't devalue you in any way. No matter where you end up, I have the utmost confidence that you will find your passion.

THE TRIDENT

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AMITY CREATIVE TEAM THE ADDAMS FAMILY

Amity's production of *The Addams Family* premieres on Friday, April 6, 2018, running until Saturday, April 14. This show was put together after months of tireless work from the theater and music departments, staff, parents, and students in the crew. *The Trident* talked to members of each of these integral sections to understand exactly what it takes to produce such a musical.

Costumes, Costumes, Costumes!

With *The Addams Family* production quickly approaching, there is much to be done for the costume crew. The crew is an important part of the production, because they are responsible for creating and designing all of the costumes for the characters of *The Addams Family*.

The musical opens on April 6th, which has the costume departments working hard to get ready for that day. The group is at the school working every Saturday, with Brenda Burt, a science teacher, and Julie Chevan, the English department chair, creating all the pieces for the musical. The team is given many tasks

and jobs to ensure the costumes are perfect for each actor and embody their character.

Talya Braverman '20, says "They help bring the show and the world that we are trying to create to life." They must research, design, and create the costumes, which involves sewing, gluing, and dyeing.

With over forty individual costumes to make,

the crew bought some for the ensemble. Yet, there is still lots of work to be done to ensure the outfit personifies the given character. To do so, the crew must add embellishments, make alterations, and dye the pieces. And although some of the pieces are bought, the lead roles and several very specific characters, such as the caveman, are handmade by the whole team.

Marissa

Proto '18, head of costume crew, said, "This involved buying fabric, cutting patterns, and then piecing it all together. It's a bit more hands on, but definitely a fun time." They also must fit each costume to the body of the actor, and ensure that no wardrobe malfunctions will occur.

The team is also very much apart of the actual performance. During the shows, the costume crew must have the costumes ready and organized, which involves presetting clothes and keeping the dressing

rooms neat and tidy. They also help the actors with their changes, as well as quick changes.

Liz Frieden '18 is a member of the costume



A rack of the cast's various costumes

crew. "This is the first year I'm on costumes so I don't have a basis for comparison really, but with this show all the ancestors are so different and all are very

creative. During the show we have a few costume changes that we help with," she said.

"Marissa has this very detailed list that has everything that needs to be done and she makes sure the whole thing runs smoothly," she added.

The team also has the task of dealing with any problems that occur during the night, such as rips, stains, and many other malfunctions.

The costume crew is an important part of the musical, as they are making the characters come to life.

As opening night for *The Addams Family* arrives, the costume crew continuously works to produce amazing costumes, ones that should be celebrated by the Amity community.



Liz Frieden '18 (right) fixing a costume for cast member Hayden Nork '19 (left)

Stage Crew Cruises

Everyone notices the actors and is excited to see the amazing stage setup, but no one really gets to see behind-the-scenes. Though the stage crew is behind the curtain, they are responsible for practically everything on stage. Not only do members of the stage crew manage the stage itself, but they also build the props, control the ambiance of the room, and work with the actors to create a surreal experience that everyone is sure to love.

With the onslaught of snow days Amity has had, the stage crew has been busy. Though they may be behind the scenes for the show, remember that almost everything seen on stage has a stage crew member watching over it.

Alaina Dwyer '18 plays Alice in this year's production and has been involved in ACT since freshmen year.

"I've established a close relationship with the stage crew," Dwyer said. "I started off my ACT career on the stage crew. And a lot of people don't know all that stage crew does and that they have such a hard time, and most of the time they don't get the recognition they should."

"So it's really important that the cast--and anyone else who works on the show--appreciates the stage crew because they are how the show is put on. It's not just about the cast or the music, but it's about the production. And without the stage crew, there is no production," she added.

Meet The Director(s)

A game can't go on without a coach. A class can't be taught without a teacher. An award-winning theater program can't be run without a director. Andrea and Robert Kennedy have been working as the theater directors at Amity since 2007 and have no thought of leaving.

Being the director of an amazing theater program isn't easy though; it takes hard work and dedication. Since January, the cast has been rehearsing Monday through Thursday from six until nine at night. In addition to that, they rehearse on Saturdays from nine to three.

As directors, the Kennedys are tasked with coming

up with "the vision for the play, what we think the play is about, how we want it to look, casting, and direction."

Even outside of rehearsals Kennedy remarks that they "never stop talking about the show." They are "shopping for the show, trying to sell tickets for the show or putting up posters for the show."

In order to for a great show to go on, there needs to be a connection between the director and their chosen cast. Aoi Tischer '20, who will be performing in the musical, remarks that the Kennedys are "dedicated and always make us work hard to get the best results at the end of the day. The students involved can't help but be inspired by their passion."

Move Toward the Darkness [of the Pit]

The pit orchestra, conducted by Phil Dolan, is an integral part of the school musical. Commonly known as pit, this orchestra sits right in front of the stage and plays the musical accompaniments that go along with the actors' singing. Musicians auditioned in early January, and rehearsals began later that month.

Saxophonist Mai Chen '18 described the most rewarding factor of being in pit as "being able to play music in a setting

that is not only with other musicians, but also people who are singing, acting, and dancing at the same time."



Lucy Richter '18, Payton Grande '19, and Amber Mansourian '20 remark that it is important to have

a live pit because "it brings the musical to life. The show starts with the music, and without the music the show won't go on. The pit is essential for the timing of each number, the execution of each number, and the completeness of the show. Without the pit, there would be no show!"

Marty Gnidula '20 was in the pit orchestra in his freshman year and is playing

a lead role, Uncle Fester, in the cast this year. He describes his transition from



pit to cast as "pretty amazing because it is two very different perspectives of the

show."

Gnidula also recognizes that "the pit works just as hard and requires just as much talent as the cast, and I feel like sometimes that goes unnoticed. I really have a lot of respect towards Mr. Dolan and the pit because they let the show come alive."

When you come to *The Addams Family*, or see any play with a live pit, don't forget to recognize all the talent and hard work of members of the pit.

THEATER PRESENTS: LY: A NEW MUSICAL

Harmonizing with Rizzotti

Behind the curtain, Marcia Rizzotti, Amity's choral director, has been teaching the cast all of the music that goes into the show. For the past two spring musicals, she has taken on the role of musical director.

When asked how much time has been spent in preparation for the show, she said, "Countless hours, as the hours put in incorporate every individual involved in putting on a show of this capacity."

After auditions in January, the cast began practicing every Monday through Thursday from 6:00 to 9:00 PM and every Saturday from 9:00 to 3:00 PM.

"I can't even count the combined hours that are

put into making this show happen," she says.

According to Rizzotti, this year's show is unique. "Unlike many other musicals, each cast member in *The Addams Family Musical*, including ensemble members, has a name and a character," Rizzotti said. "The ensemble members are ancestors of the Addams family. This has really given each cast member an opportunity to develop their character, their story and their relationship to the Addams. These connections and the family tree that the cast has been able to create during the rehearsal process has united them, and it will add a huge element to the stage when the show opens on April 6th."

Props to Props!

The spring musical is just around the corner, so each department has been working diligently to bring the production together for the community to enjoy. The show could not function with the props.

Avital Sutin '19, with help from her mother, has been choosing, designing, and planning the props. Her process began with researching the musical, and discovering how past productions have used their props. Then she planned based off of what is needed to enhance the show. She ordered some items and made others, designed specifically for Amity's version of the musical.

When explaining her approach to creating the props, Sutin said, "Each prop is different... I had to make really quirky stuff."

Some of the items that Avital had to create included a "monster under a bed," an exploding bird, and the grandmother's cart.

It is a very taxing process, and the whole cast appreciates and understands her hard work.



Parts of Grandma Addams' cart, created by Avital Sutin '19.

Jillian Gusciora '18, the stage manager of the show, said, "Avital, the props master, has been working tirelessly creating and

gathering all of the props that are required throughout the show. The props help the actors grow deeper into their character and make the scenes feel real."

Caitlin Carlson '20 talked about the importance of props and said, "We really would not be able to do the show without the props. Avital works so hard on each and every prop we have and we are so thankful for all of them! Each prop is so important to the production of the show."

The props make a huge impact on the show and help create the world the actors, and all the departments involved work tirelessly to produce.

They are a huge part of creating the complex production that is *The Addams Family*. The props help bring the production to life, and enrich the viewers' experience.

Maren Westgard, Grandma X3

Maren Westgard is a senior playing the role of Grandma Addams in *The Addams Family*. In the last three Amity musicals, she has played a grandmother.

How long have you been acting?

I started in acting camps when I was little, not the one here, the one in New Haven and I've been doing it ever since!

What were your thoughts when you found out that Amity was doing Addams Family?

I was SO excited! I had seen the show a couple of years ago and LOVED it, and I

had even sung one of the character's songs for a Cabaret the year before!

What were your thoughts on playing the grandmother for the third year in a row?

Needless to say, I was not entirely surprised. But as always I was grateful to be invited to be a part of the ACT cast this year, and I was especially honored to be given a principal role. But I know at least some, tiny part of the casting just had to do with my incumbency as the Amity Grandma!

What is the biggest challenge you faced playing your character?

To even my own surprise, I struggled with this Grandma! You would think that I, the Grandma expert, would have had no trouble getting into character, but if I've learned one thing from playing grandmothers three years in a row, it is that no Grandma is the same. This Grandma has a witch-like side to her that I've been working on bringing out, which is not an aspect my previous grandmothers have had. It's nice to know that even within a "type-cast" position, I can still overcome a variety of challenges and learn something new every time I play a role



Photos by Howard Ding '18 and Sophie Baum '18.

Centerspread Writers: Olivia Gross '20 (Pit); Kayla Morgan '20 (Director); Gillianne Nugent '20 (Musical director); Sydney Reiner '20 (Costumes and Props);

Sheariah Stevens '18 (Snap, Snap and Maren Westgard); Jack Tajmajer '20 (Stage crew)



Snap, Snap: The Addams Family Vlog Series

Harrison Paek is a senior playing the role of Gomez Addams. He began a vlog series that he has been producing in the weeks leading up to the show.

What was the inspiration behind Snap, Snap?

The inspiration behind it all was the Broadway.com vlogs that have gone up for various Broadway musicals over the years. I actually used the vlog for *Fiddler on the Roof* when it was doing its Broadway run for inspiration as a springboard for playing Motel. Because Adam Kantor who played Motel on Broadway had a vlog and I watched it throughout

my experience in last year's production of *Fiddler*. I guess I wanted to give that to other people, give a look at what's going on in the theater. You know, [for] those up and coming middle schoolers, I wanted to give them a little taste of what it's like in the high school.

What is the meaning behind the name of your vlog?

Usually these Broadway.com vlogs have like a clever pun. Snap,

Snap was catchy and it was recognizable, so yeah that's pretty much the origins of

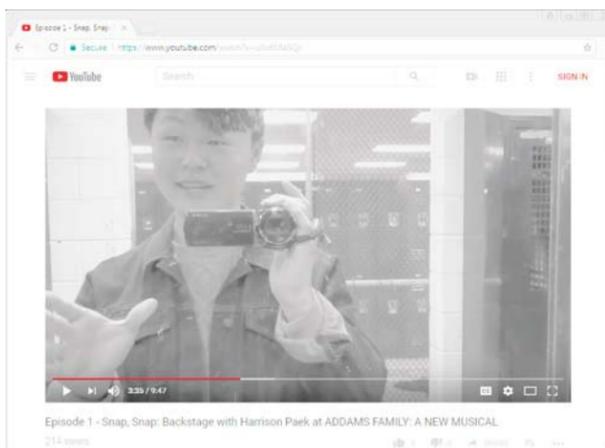
where it came from!
What happens in a typical vlog?

Usually it consists of shenanigans first and foremost. There usually there is some sort of driving question, so I'll have a question and a couple of interviews with castmates. Lots of messing around backstage and I usually just cap off every episode with Q&A, whenever I have any questions I feel compelled to answer, to give the

audience a little taste of me and what I'm about and my whole view on the production.

What do you hope the Amity community will take away from watching?

I really hope the whole community realizes how important this is. This whole program is completely self-funded and we do all our own work, but it's really the whole the community that comes out and not only watches but if you saw the turnout and just the people who built the set and sell ads. I feel like getting new people in here and getting more people excited about it is very important for us going forward.



Preview of Episode 1 of "Snap, Snap" featuring Harrison Paek '18.

Amity Students Make Spring Break Plans

by Lexi Halstead '19

As the weather warms up, Amity students are getting ready for spring break. The winter months are often some of the busiest for the students, so this break is much needed and appreciated. Juniors typically take this time to start preparing for the SAT or ACT and the upcoming AP exams, while seniors are committing to colleges and getting ready for the next stage of their lives.

Junior Lindsey Kupcho plans on heading south to North Carolina to tour the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Elon University. She is one among many juniors who plan on doing college touring during their week off.

Summer Schaaf '19 will be traveling west to Arizona. "I'm excited to go on adventures at the Grand Canyon with my family and friends!" Schaaf states.

Other students are still working on potential plans. "I'm hoping to get a train ticket to go to DC to visit my friends from down south," says Emily Berkeley '19. "They're all going to be in DC and such. I'm the only one not from the south, it's the closest they'll ever be to me, so I really want to see them. If we do meet up, we'd go hang at museums and stay at each other's houses."

The student athletes are getting ready for rigorous practice schedules over the break and the exciting seasons to come.

"It's going to be a

fun season," Justin Roche '21 says. "But I'm looking forward to having a week to not worry about school and homework and to just relax."

This year, the Amity Music and Theater depart-

Pugsley Addams in the high school's upcoming musical. "I truly love performing and singing and being able to take it to the next level with my closest friends is an experience I'll never forget."

Another member of the theater department, sophomore Halle Syrop, says she "couldn't be more ecstatic for the new experience."

She continued, "I love performing so being able to sing and dance at such a magical place seems like the best plan ever. I get to be with my friends who I now consider family because of how much time I've spent with them this year."

Emily Brett-hauer '19, a member of the Amity Chamber Singers, is excited for the change of scenery. "I think this trip is really cool in the sense that the music and theater departments

get to come together to create something great. We get to work with people we don't normally and perform in a way we normally wouldn't for a regular concert."

Excitement is buzzing throughout the performing arts students.

"I'm super excited about the Disney Trip this year! I can't wait to perform songs with such great people and friends. Everyone on the trip is thrilled to go. It's going to be such a great spring break!" says Julia Vinci '19.

From the fireworks shows at the Magic Kingdom and Epcot, to the lighting of the Tree of Life in Animal Kingdom, mixed with the music, dancing, food, and friends, there is bound to be magic in store.

The Trident wishes all students a fun-filled spring break. Congratulations on pushing through the winter into the final quarter of the year! Happy Break!



A warm 2017 spring break.
Photo by Summer Schaaf '19.

ments are going on a trip to Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida. While staying at Disney's All-Star Music Resort, they will be performing and attending workshops to further enhance their knowledge and skills of the performing arts. The group is made up of students involved in theater, technical theater, choir, and chambers singers. Each student will attend a workshop based on respective room assignments and the branch of the different departments they are affiliated with. The trip includes five-day itinerary with a new activity each day. The students rehearse twice a week for choreography and music.

"I'm really excited to not only go to Disney and be with my friends, but to have the opportunity to perform on the Disney Springs stage with all of them!" says Lilli Querker '19, a member of the theater department who will be playing the role of

Juniors Take On College Prep

by Elana Bershtein '19

With the third marking period quickly approaching its end, many students are thinking, starting, or continuing to think about college and the admissions process. Amity has many resources to aid in this process, such as counseling services and Naviance.

Currently, juniors are preparing or have taken the SAT or ACT, while seniors

are committing to colleges. The college admissions process has affected students very differently within Amity and has generated a variety of different reactions.

Ben Schiff '19 is relatively concerned about the college process, but

trusts that Amity will guide him throughout this process. He's mainly interested in colleges that are medium sized and in New England, as he wants to be close to home. Though he feels rather overwhelmed with academics, sports, testing, and the college admissions process, he feels comforted by the resources that Amity has provided.

Schiff says, "I have found my guidance counselor to be particularly helpful in the college process. The junior planning meeting has really guided me in terms of researching colleges that I might attend. I have also used Naviance a lot, particularly the "College Search" feature. All of these resources have made the seemingly overwhelming college search and admissions process less intimidating."

Schiff believes that he will be happy at whatever college he attends and hopes others will embrace the same

philosophy.

The college admissions process often induces stress and pressure. Avital Sutin '19 expresses this, claiming that the discussion of college consumes many of her conversations and even thinks about it an "unhealthy amount of time."

Sutin says, "I'm extremely stressed by colleges because of how competitive it has become in the past few years. I know some people who do a lot of extracurricular

activities and take almost, if not all, AP and honors classes who still don't get into many colleges. It also stresses me out that practically every decision I make now goes towards my college application and my near future." Sutin also says she plans on visiting more colleges once AP testing is completed. "It is also very stressful to

manage school work with college visits. I feel as if I have little free time, making visits very difficult."

Mayah Sachs '18 recently committed to Tulane University. Upon her experience with the college admissions process she says, "I focused my attention on medium sized schools that had strong programs in both business and communications. After narrowing down my list, I tried to visit as many as I could and narrowed my list even more after really liking a few of them that met all of my needs. Ultimately, I chose Tulane and am so excited for the next four years!"

Sachs encourages students to start early in the process and believes everyone will eventually end up at the school best fit for them.

Although the college application and admissions process is rather scary and ominous, it is important that students try to not get too stressed out.

Unfortunately, however, test scores and acceptances often tend to affect students' perceptions regarding themselves and their capabilities. These scores should not be and are not indicative of self-worth.

No student should be defined by a number or let a college's decision change their sense of self-value. Luckily, the various resources Amity provides can help guide students in this process, preparing them for their future. This can encourage students to be excited for the next step of their education, rather than fear it.



Lexi Halstead '19 visiting University of Rhode Island.

Photo contributed by Halstead '19.

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When You're An Addams...

The Trident asked students involved in this year's musical to describe *The Addams Family* in one word. Here's what they said:

"Riveting" -Harrison Paek '18

Gomez Addams

"Engaging" -Ali Ashworth '18

Morticia Addams

"Eccentric"
-Ryan Kennedy '21

Lucas Beineke



"Energizing" -Kayla Kroopnick '18
Light Board Operator

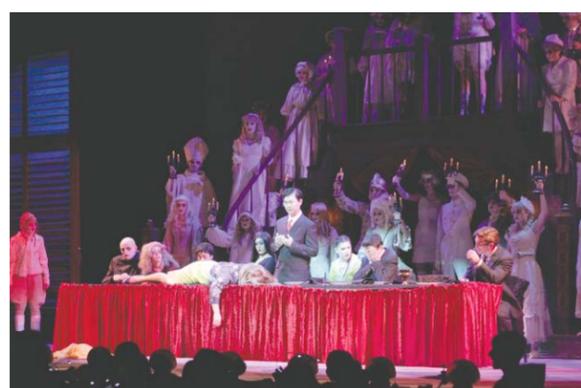


"Unique"
-Caitlin Carlson '20
Flapper Ancestor

"Transformative"
-Lilli Querker '19
Pugsley Addams



"Endearing" -Alex Barnes '20
Cellist in the pit



"Piquant" -Hayden Nork '19
Mozart

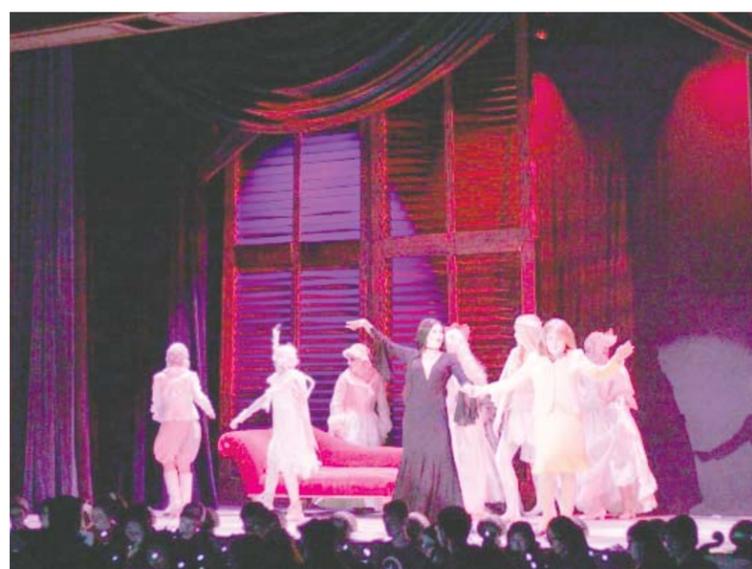
"Grrgh" -Ben Kemp '18
Lurch

"Creepy"
-Annie Driscoll '21
1800s Child Ancestor

"Spectacular" -Sydney Sherrick '20
Ballerina Ancestor

"Extraordinary" -Zoe Smith '21
Egyptian Princess

"Comedic" -Dean Pocwierz '18
Conquistador Ancestor



"Spooky" -Kayla Zamkov '18
Puritan Ancestor

"Fabulous" -Carly Chervenak '19
Opera Diva Ancestor

Read more about this year's production on pages 4 and 5. Happy Opening Night!



Girls Outdoor Track Is Ready to Race

by David Sugarmann '20

Now that spring has begun, the girls track team has started practicing hard. After their first meet against Sheehan and Foran on April 5, they had no time to lose. It is one thing to want to win, but the girls track team is ready to put in the work.

When team captain Caroline Rafferty '18 was asked what she thought the most important component to success is, she replied, "Determination. It's immensely important to be persistent in this sport because nothing comes easy."

This is the mentality that could give them an edge against Sheehan, Foran, and other tough teams they'll face this season.

Another important component Rafferty stressed was teamwork. She said,

"Every track meet is a huge mental game and having support from your teammates can make all the difference."

By combining these two components together, a winning and supportive environment is being formed that will lead this team to victory.

Even with the right men-



From Left: Julia Potter '19, Abby Bowser '19, Ari Cannon '18, and Caroline Rafferty '18 at SCCS.

Photo courtesy Ari Cannon '18

tality and team chemistry, it is extremely hard to run a good race. Going too fast or too slow at one particular part of the race can completely throw someone off. Though this can not be eliminated, Rafferty gave an interesting explanation on how to minimize it.

She said, "The hardest part about racing is feeling like you'll let your team down. The only way to truly overcome this is to realize that the team is supporting and cheering you on no matter what."

By thinking like this, the team will be less nervous and stressed, which will lead to the team being more confident and relaxed when they run.

It seems as if the Amity Girls Outdoor Track team is well prepared for the upcoming meets.

With the right mentality, teamwork, and positive atmosphere, they are certain to have a fulfilling season.

New Challenges Arise for Boys Lacrosse Team

by Nick Riccardi '20

It's that time of year again. A time of chocolate bunnies, budding trees, and competitive lacrosse.

Amity Boys Lacrosse is coming back into full swing for yet another season, looking for success. With a less-than-stellar 5-11 record last year, coupled with the loss of a large part of the starting squad, there is definitely room for improvement.

Led by captains Paul Buda '18 on defense and Matt Weidenfeller '18 as a midfielder, the varsity team is poised to bounce back this year.

The offense is led by scorer Luke Smith '18, a driving force. It remains to be seen if the captains can rally together and transform this group of young men with raw talent into a disciplined and triumphant team this season.

Practice, team coordination, talent development, and refined strategy are all conducive to team success. And those components are precisely what the coaches are focusing on.

Head Coach Brandon Pepe is experienced working with Amity athletes and will use his wisdom to carry the crew to victory.

This year, the Spartans will face many of the teams they lost to last year as the schedule ahead is the usual assortment of SCC and non-SCC opponents. These contests will prove as opportunity for redemption. Many of the shoreline teams they will face are tough, so if Amity can win against Fairfield Prep and Guilford, it will show their strength and teamwork.

As they charge into the season, they will face Fairfield Prep on April 16, Jonathan Law on April 18, and Pomperaug on April 26.

Amity Baseball Looks to States... and Beyond

by Jared Beltz '19

With the arrival of spring, the Amity Baseball team looks to begin another run to the state title. After a three year hold on the state championship title from 2013-2016, the baseball team suffered an upsetting loss in last season's playoffs.

Putting their loss behind them, though, they look to turn the tables this season.

Marc Chodos '19 spoke of this loss, saying, "We are eager to get back on top this year. The goal every year is to compete for a state championship."

Amity surely hasn't lost any hope of a playoff title, with many figureheads of young talent on the team they look to work hard once again this season.

Even with many talented players leaving the team to pursue their sport in college, they still remains a strong contender for another playoff run.

The Amity Baseball team has produced three very successful players just from last season who went to play division one

baseball in college.

Teddy Hague '17 now attends Yale University, where he has seen 38 at-bats, 12 hits and scored 7 runs so far in his college career, his first hit being a home run.

Alongside his brother, Andy Hague '17 now plays for University of Connecticut where he has seen three at-bats and two runs.

Lastly, Chris Winkel '16 also attends University of Connecticut for baseball, where he has played 57 games his freshman year, starting in 45 of them. Along with starting, he has had 36 hits, 7 doubles, four triples, one home run and 15 RBIs.

From the success these athletes have had so far in the inaugural seasons, it is clear that Amity High school knows how to produce division one baseball athletes.

Such a talented collection of alumni serve as an inspiration to current members of the team.

The 2018 season will be full of hard work, but the hopes to make a playoff run have not subsided from the minds of the players.

Softball Looks to Defend and Repeat Their Title

by Jordan Conn '18

The girls softball team is ready to run in the upcoming 2018 season. After two deep campaigns in both the SCC tournament and the LL state tournament last season, they're known locally as a strong team. They hope to defend their title as SCC Housatonic Champions and preserve their spectacular 15-5 regular season record.

Head coach Sara Hale and her assistant Mike Stockmal look to guide their players through another epic year.

The team is lead by a talented group of upperclassmen. The starting pitcher, Grace Whitman '18, is praised for her experience on the mound. And the fielders behind her further demonstrate Amity's skill.

First baseman Marissa Dwyer '20 and second baseman Carly Marchitto '18, who has committed to Endicott College, will protect the right side of the infield.

Shortstop Nicole Koshes '18, who is committed to Merrimack, and third baseman Brooke Matyasovsky '18, who is headed to the University of Bridgeport, will hold down the fort on

the left side.

The outfield will be led by center fielder Dani Nor-

tans were hungry for more.

There was unfinished business that they hope to get an-



Grace Whitman '18 celebrates with team after hitting a homerun.

Photo courtesy Grace Whitman '18

dyk, who will play at Kutztown. Behind the plate is catcher Rachel Crow '19.

However, this team is not about the individuals. It is not carried by one player.

"We have some very talented players, but our team is not carried by one person," said Whitman. "We have talent across the board and we can all work together and can rely on each other to come up big in clutch moments."

Right after their season ended last spring, the Spar-

other crack at this year, with their ultimate goal being to win a Class LL State Championship.

The only way to win is with preparation, and that is exactly what they have done this offseason. The girls have played in fall ball leagues and spent the winter hitting in the batting cages at the Grind in Orange.

"I have no doubt that we are prepared and ready to go this season," Whitman added. "We are ready to take the field and make it happen."

Amity's Parking Plague

by Sophie Baum '18

It's an issue that's been plaguing Amity Regional High School for years. But this junior class has pushed administration over the edge, even prompting an intervention by the state Department of Education. The issue at hand: the (almost) daily fender-benders in junior parking.

On Friday, March 23, Amity students alerted the security guards and administration of yet another minor accident in the parking lot. This time, half the student's bumper fell off. But this damage was not atypical for such reports. It was, however, a milestone, as it marked the 100th junior parking accident in this academic year.

Principal Anna Mahon expressed frustration, telling The Trident about the various measures they've instated to attempt to remedy this problem.

The solutions included, but were not limited to, requiring an additional 10-hour driving course co-taught by PE teachers Thom Jacobs and Betsi Grace, hiring a parking attendant to help students

safely exit the lot (he eventually got hit and quit his job but thankfully was not injured), starting a valet program run by teachers (but even the teachers couldn't figure out how to maneuver the junior parking lot), and forcing juniors to drive plastic toy cars designed for 4-year-old children (promoted by the PE department because of the intense physical activity necessary



A familiar sight in the junior parking lot. RIP juniors' car bumpers!

to propel these vehicles).

They say desperate times call for desperate measures. And this surely is a desperate time, as Amity has now become the laughing stock among Connecticut high schools. Mounisha Anumolu '19 reported being taunted by other high schoolers while walking the streets in New Haven.

"I was minding my own business, just supporting Amity in my Amity Debate shirt. These kids asked if I was from Amity, and then

laughed at me for a good minute," Anumolu said. "They asked how I managed to pass drivers ed. It's okay, though. They ran away and looked a sheepish when I told them I don't even have my license yet."

Now the state has become involved, suggesting a somewhat radical solution. Officials proposed moving junior parking back just a little farther to Rice and North Peace Roads, perhaps with some overflow into the Woodbridge Library parking lots. Shuttle-busses will not be provided, and seniors will be prohibited from driving juniors to their cars. Unfortunately, the state has warned Amity that the fate of Amity junior parking

may be predetermined.

More severe measures may soon need to be taken. New scientific research at Yale has suggested that the brains of high school juniors have been modified through natural selection for unknown reasons. While future juniors may be academically smarter, research has shown that they unfortunately lack the brain capacity to properly park.

So it seems Amity will have to accept that dents and scratches may always be part of junior parking.

Admin Plans Fake Natural Disasters to Keep Seniors from Graduating

by Ali Hagani '18

During the week of March 19th, students at Amity High School braced themselves for what weathermen claimed would be a "powerhouse winter storm."

They named it Superstorm Elsa and warned of six inches to a foot of snow barreling down on BOW. Teachers prepared for no school, while the students switched into their "snow day" mode, excited for their days off. Parents kept the Weather Channel on for updates as to when the snow would begin

"We were quite nervous at first," said Ploy. "But once we saw Snow Day Calculator's percentages, we knew that our models were believable and that the public had fallen under our trap." After conversing with the News and Weather Programs, the town ordered roughly \$10 million dollars worth of fake snow and a giant air conditioner to make the snowstorm more realistic.

As the "snowstorm" drew closer, the administrators and the rest of Amity High School's staff were very excited that they would have the senior class for a little longer. However, Dr. Dumais was having



and how much would be dumped on Connecticut.

However, despite the anticipation, this so-called "Superstorm" was nothing more than a farce conducted by the administration and teachers of Amity Regional High School as a well-orchestrated attempt to keep the beloved Class of 2018 at Amity for a little while longer.

It all started when March rolled in, and internship and graduation neared closer.

"It was sad because the Class of 2018 is just too amazing," said AP Dance & Movement teacher Sal Sah. "And so we were faced with the traditional dilemma: do we let them go or do we fake a major snowstorm to push back graduation? Naturally, we chose the latter."

After deciding on this plot, executing it took a lot of work and demanded the help of many people and organizations. Luckily, everyone was willing to go the distance to make it happen. First, administrators contacted local news stations and meteorologists in hope that they could supplement their lie with believable evidence. They agreed.

"We always get a little nostalgic when the snow season winds down," said

local news anchor Isa Ploy. "So when we heard from the folks at Amity High School, we were happy to oblige!"

After that, the snow team worked trying to sell Superstorm Elsa. Together, they chose Wednesday, March 21 as the day the storm would hit. Then, a week before the supposed-storm, they began coverage to warn parents.

his doubts.

"I don't want anyone finding out about this," he told the administrators in a meeting the day before the snowstorm. "We have to make this look believable." Thus, the superintendent took to Twitter to issue an early dismissal on the 21st in the hope that there would be grounds for him to declare an actual snow day for the following day.

Unfortunately, though, the fake snow that was purchased never arrived in time, forcing Dumais to call for a full day of school. Despite this setback, preparations have already been started for April 13th's Superstorm "We".

In order to further make the winter storm more believable, orders were sent out to buy 100 fans per household. Not only must the administration air condition all of Woodbridge, Bethany, and Orange, but they must also install electric fans outside every single window to ensure that people think it is too dangerous to head outside.

Following Superstorm "We", major storms "Love", "Our", and "Seniors" are set to wreak havoc in mid to late April. But it's Spring! In order to keep the ploy convincing,



Dr. Dumais has already reached out to Poland Spring in order to buy massive quantities of water to artificially flood the BOW.

Are You Really Not Signing in to Study Hall?

by Amanda Hendrick '18

As the school year comes to a close, study hall administrators are becoming increasingly more frustrated. As the most important class of the day, attendance is vital, but students are still being found doing things such as having meetings with guidance counselors, getting help from teachers, starting homework, or practicing instruments, trying to get in as much time as they can before the next period.

"Ridiculous!" many exclaim. One is expected to wait in the ten-minute line to sign in instead of completing the various activities crammed into a typical student's day. This is why the announcement of a new rule administering two week detentions to those who fail to put a little check next to their name on the sign in sheet was long expected.

How will teachers ensure students aren't skipping sign in so they can go ahead with their other responsibilities? Well, what do you think those barcoded student IDs are for? Little did Amity students know, but the funds originally designated for new

desks, better books, and heating the school were instead utilized to implant GPS devices into each student ID. As each student signs in, they will flash their ID over a device to confirm their presence. After all students are signed in,



Senior Jacob Gross thinks this is just his student ID. It's actually a high-tech location tracker. Watch out, Big Brother!

the study hall administrator can then pinpoint the exact location of the IDs of the students who did not sign in, with the unavoidable fate of detention for these students. A similar fate will be in store for those who left their IDs at home. Why wouldn't you carry it at all times anyways?

Many students have shown their incredible gratefulness for this needed change. One anonymous student stated, "If I have to wait in a twenty minute line, missing my chance to talk to my busy teachers and counselors, then everyone should. That sign in sheet is a way of life. Without

it, Amity has absolutely no order over students. We should be treated like elementary school children! I have no problem with that."

Along with placing child locks on all doors so that students cannot leave classrooms without reason, others explained that two weeks detention is actually not a significant enough punishment for a crime this severe.

A well read student explained that "Two out of every five study hall students do not sign in. It's ridiculous! Where are they going? We must purchase cameras with facial recognition before everyone thinks it's okay to take hold of the small amounts of freedom possible in that 57 minute period!" So far, it seems there are no downsides to this new proposition.

Although there is a significant difference between students who consistently skip sign in and those who do so because something else is more important than a simple checked box indicating presence in a very unimportant period, Amity staff has made clear the amount of trust a high schooler can be awarded in one day.

Amity Administration Unveils Next Year's Mission Statement: Stop Trying Hard

by Jacob Gross '18

Since Anna Mahon became principal almost three years ago, Amity High School has undergone a lot of changes. Some were big, some were small, but all helped Amity to realize its full potential as a school. One of the most notable of these changes was the introduction of a yearly theme. Two years ago, "Find Your Passion" urged students to introspect - to look deep within themselves, to discover their purpose in life, and to find what makes them truly happy. Last year's theme, "Make It Happen," encouraged students to put in their all - to work to make their dreams come true. "Go The Distance," this year's theme, is all about working hard to overcome your challenges.

Amity's themes have been selected to highlight the school's positivity.

Until now.

In a shocking statement, Amity administration revealed next year's highly anticipated theme: "Stop Trying Hard." As with past years' themes, it has three words and is a forceful, memorable statement. But that's where the similarities

end. In place of encouragement and inspiration, the 2018-2019 school year's theme will fall under a different type of umbrella.

Here at The Trident, we

to the faculty lounge. Here's what they told us:

1. To the students taking three or four AP classes, who study hours each night to barely scrape

a college will care how you did on your math test. College is so competitive nowadays anyway; you can apply with a near-perfect GPA and a 35 on your ACT and

school, and take easier classes.

2. To the students heavily involved in extracurriculars, the same message applies. There's no reason to exhaust yourself every day for hours after school on a varsity sports team or to spend weeks planning your upcoming JSA convention. This probably won't help your chances of getting into college that much, so why try? Just quit. Go home, watch random YouTube videos, and play some Fortnite.

3. The third and perhaps most important reason for next year's message is directed to those who take classes that they're not interested in. Why try so hard? You don't care about what you're learning, and a boring class certainly isn't going to help. Feel free to cut whenever you want, or even stay home when you don't feel like coming in. After all, it's your life. Might as well enjoy it while you can.

Hey, I'm convinced. I think we should embrace next year's message.

Why should I even bother trying to finish this article?



Mahon prepares to unveil the 2018 theme at the entrance of Amity High School.

tried to analyze why the school would choose such a theme and what its implications are. We caught up with Mahon and the assistant principals on their way

by with passing marks: stop trying hard? Why study? It's not like you'll remember what you got on your history quiz thirty years from now, and it's highly doubtful that

still get rejected. So instead of slaving away, putting hours into something that will ultimately get you no satisfaction, stop trying hard. Have fun, forget about

Pennies for Our Thoughts

by Rosie Du '19

This year, The Trident started off strong with many sponsors pouring in with support for ads and donations. However, this good luck was short-lived because the publication was soon hard pressed for cash.

With no knowledge of the paper's low funds, Inna Cents '20 went to local Pay Up Shoe Source recently to ask if they wanted to place an ad in The Trident.

Cents reported, "The lady at the front desk was very happy to help me and said that they would like to place a full page ad in our newspaper!"

However, the store soon shut down, and they stopped responding to calls from Cents.

Cents said, "I really thought this could help the newspaper, and this was truly a full page letdown."

After this fiasco, fewer businesses wanted to place an ad. The highly reputable Pay Up store's refusal to pay The Trident made other local business owners skeptical of its legitimacy.

Faced with this horrible pickle and dwindling money supplies, newspaper members such

as Supara Strassedout '19 thought it would be a good idea to have a bake sale at Stop & Not Shop.

supermarket, more than 70% of shoppers evaded donating to Trident members sitting at the tables.

His teeth chattering, Strassedout commented, "I thought we would be able to make more money, but I was unable to convince shoppers to stay for even a brownie because I was too broke to afford more Trident apparel to stay warm!"

As a last resort, the editors started to collect coins off of the ground wherever they could find them. Luckily, ran-

dom stacks of coins started showing up in places, such as a restaurant menu at No Currants Seen and a potted plant outside of Fried Dough.

Deeb In'Dett '18 revealed, "Although we barely have any funds, things are starting to look up. I have to go now, though, because someone just told me that there were some bills laying around outside of Green Check."

Trident members are currently scouring BOW for as many coins as possible. Contact the editorial staff about new locations. Editors may be unreachable and may be late for class (sorry, teachers) if they're on a money-searching shift.



However, even after covering both exits at the